

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08392 051400Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 SSM-05 SAA-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NEAE-00 /088 W

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O 051333Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3963
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION SINAI

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8392

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR IS EG XF US
SUBJ: ISRAELI MEDIA ON EGYPTIAN PEACE PROPOSALS

1. ISRAELI MEDIA TODAY (JULY 5) REPORTS DETAILS OF EGYPTIAN
PEACE PROPOSALS AS PRINTED IN THIS MORNING'S CAIRO PRESS.
DUE TO SHORTNESS OF TIME, EDITORIAL COMMENT IS LIMITED TO
THE AFTERNOON DAILIES, WITH REPORTING ON GOI RESPONSE BASED
MAINLY ON SPECULATION.

2. MA'ARIV (SEGEV, HARIF AND GRANOFF IN ONE ARTICLE) AND
YEDIOT (ZIMUKI, SHARMIR, AND BEN-YISHAI IN ONE ARTICLE)
WRITE THAT THE IMPRESSION OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08392 051400Z

DETAILS OF THE PLAN IS THAT "THE LONDON MEETING IS NOW A
CERTAINTY." ALTHOUGH THE GOI IS NOT EXPECTED TO REPLY
OFFICIALLY TO THE US INVITATION UNTIL AFTER SUNDAY'S CABINET
SESSION, JERUSALEM CIRCLES DO NOT BELIEVE ISRAEL WILL TRY TO
MAKE ANY EXCUSE TO AVOID PARTICIPATING. ACCORDING TO MA'ARIV
"... IF EGYPT IS NOT DEMANDING ANY PRIOR COMMITMENT FROM
ISRAEL, TO THE EFFECT THAT SHE ACCEPTS THE EGYPTIAN

PROPOSALS -- THEN ISRAEL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REFUSE THE INVITATION TO THE LONDON CONFERENCE." MA'ARIV MAINTAINS GOVERNMENT SOURCES ALSO EXPRESSED A HOPE THAT THE LONDON MEETING WILL NOT BE A ONE-TIME EVENT, BUT RATHER A RENEWED BEGINNING OF THE PEACE PROCESS. BOTH PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT THE GOI FOUND THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS TOUGH AND UNACCEPTABLE.

3. IN ITS EDITORIAL MA'ARIV CALLS THE STILL UNOFFICIAL EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL "... A 'NON-STARTER' ... SOMETHING WHICH CANNOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY." HOLDING OUT (HOPEFULLY) THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS PROPOSAL REPRESENTS ONLY AN OPENING POSITION FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL FOLLOW, MA'ARIV SAYS, "IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT REALLY THINKS THERE IS EVEN A SINGLE PERSON IN ISRAEL LIKELY TO ACCEPT SUCH A 'PEACE PLAN.'" MA'ARIV AGREES THAT ISRAEL MUST NONETHELESS GO TO LONDON AND NOT RENEGE ON ITS PLEDGE TO DISCUSS ANY PROPOSAL, NO MATTER HOW FAR-FETCHED. HOWEVER, THE PAPER QUESTIONS WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO FIRST REVISE THE OFFICIAL ISRAELI PLAN (MAKE IT LESS FORTHCOMING) TO PREVENT "THE CREATION OF A DRASTIC IMBALANCE IN LONDON."

4. YEDIOT SUPPORTS GOI POSITION THAT IT WILL ONLY ATTEND THE LONDON CONFERENCE IF EGYPT'S PLAN SETS NO PRE-CONDITIONS. THE PAPER ALSO WARNS THAT THE GOI MUST ENSURE THAT THE CONFERENCE DISCUSSION TAKES PLACE ON THE BASIS OF BOTH PEACE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 08392 051400Z

PROPOSALS, NOT JUST THE EGYPTIAN. LEWIS

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Disposition Reason:
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